

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Examiner's Office Action dated June 1, 2006. This Office Action rejected all pending claims. In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of all pending claims.

The Office Action rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0069094 filed by Bingham et al. ("Bingham"). Applicants have amended the claims to remove the limitations considered by the Examiner to be in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Moreover, Applicants have amended the independent claims to add limitations thereto. To illustrate, independent claim 1 recites:

A method comprising:
receiving a request for a function space at a digital processing system, the digital processing system containing an availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties and a set of pricing rules for one or more function spaces, the request including a plurality of criteria;
determining an availability of the requested function space based upon the availability information and one or more of the plurality of criteria;
and
upon determining that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is available, automatically providing a real-time price quote for the requested function space based on the first date;
receiving a second request for the function space at the digital processing system, the second request including a plurality of criteria, wherein one of the plurality of criteria of the second request is a second date for using the requested function space;
determining availability of the requested function space based on the availability information and one or more of the plurality of criteria of the second request;
upon determining that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria of the second request is available, automatically providing a second real-time

price quote for the requested function space
on the second date;
wherein the first and second dates are different from
each other;
wherein the real-time price quote and the second real-
time price quote are different from each other.

Claim 1, as amended, recites receiving separate requests for the same function space, wherein the separate requests include first and second dates, respectively, for using the requested function space. As noted in independent claim 1, separate real time quotes are generated in response to receiving the separate requests. The separate real time quotes are different from each other. Applicants assert that these limitations are not taught or fairly suggested in the sections of Bingham cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants assert that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable.

The remaining independent claims 9 and 17 have been amended along the lines similar to the amendments made to independent claim 1. For the same reasons independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited sections of Bingham, independent claims 9 and 17 are likewise patentably distinguishable. The remaining claims are patentably distinct by virtue of their independence either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 9, or 17.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on October 2, 2006.


Attorney for Applicants

10/2/06
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Eric A. Stephenson
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 38,321
Telephone: (512) 439-5093
Facsimile: (512) 439-5099